

Appln No. 10/715,681
Amdt date February 28, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 29, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following new paragraph:

[0035] The ends of the light guides 40, 42 that extend out of the mouth are eventually inserted into corresponding bores or bosses 50, 52 on the front of the lamp ~~assembly~~ head 54 (FIG. 7) during the bleaching process. In one exemplary embodiment, the light guides extend about 1.5 inches out of the patient's mouth. However, the length of the light guides and the length that extends outside of the mouth can vary depending on the dentist, the bleaching composition and the light assembly used.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following new paragraph:

[0036] Positioning the lamp ~~assembly~~ head 54 to the patient via the light guides 40, 42 will enable the position of the lamp to be fixed relative to the patient's teeth, as further discussed below. In an alternative embodiment, the retractor 12 can have bosses molded adjacent the cheek plates 18, 20 and the light guides, without the foam bite pads 44, engage the bosses.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following new paragraph:

[0040] Once the whitening gel application is applied, the light assembly 53 can be moved into position to activate the gel. If the light assembly 53 has been used on other patients, the timer can be turned on and activated immediately. If the light assembly has not been in operation, a warm up cycle may be required. With reference to FIG. 8, the back of the chair that the patient sits on should be raised so that the patient is in a slightly reclined position and able to comfortably swallow. The light head 54 should be positioned so that the entire smile zone may be completely exposed to the light radiation emitted from the housing aperture 72 (FIG. 7 and 8). The light incident on the patient should be focused on the teeth and should not extend above the margin to the dam application. The exposed tips of the guide posts 40, 42 should then be attached to the bosses 50, 52 or other suitable engaging means on the front of the light ~~assembly~~ head 54. The guide posts 40, 42 should be lightly pushed into the bosses 50, 52 (FIG. 8) until the

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fit is secured, as shown in FIGs. 7 and 8. As readily apparent, any of a variety of structures or linkages can be used to engage the guide posts to the lamp, so long as the position of the lamp relative to the patient's teeth is constant. When assembled properly, the light should rest about 1.5 inches (3.3 cm) from the buccal surface of the maxillary central incisors. However, for a particular light assembly, the distance can vary due to the output power, the light or lamp used, and the angle of incident of the light rays.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following new paragraph:

[0045] Three schematic diagrams of the light assembly 53 are attached, one directed to the light head assembly 54 (FIG. 9), one to the power supply assembly 74 (FIG. 10), and one to the mounting of the light head assembly 54 and the power supply assembly onto a light stand (FIG. 11). Although the light assembly 53 is disclosed herein below with particularity, other curing lamps having suitable light properties may be used with the tooth bleaching process provided in accordance with aspects of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following new paragraph:

[0054] Rearwardly of the lamp 62 are a fan bracket 118, a fan 64, and a light head screen bracket 120. An igniter PCB 65 (available from Hansmann Electronics GmbH Company KG of Barsinghausen, Germany, ZG5L P.C.B. Igniter, part No. 04-1002) is mounted to the rear seat 122 of the upper metal shield 60 and secured in place by an igniter bracket 124. A thermal fuse 126 (available from Hansmann Electronics GmbH Company KG, P.S.M ELDC2.3-I, part No. 04-1010) is incorporated to protect the light assembly from overheating. The thermal fuse 126 should be selected in accordance with general safety practice. In one exemplary embodiment, the thermal fuse is selected to power down or shut off the lamp when about 185 degrees F is reached. Once the temperature falls below about 154 degrees F, the lamp may be restarted. In one exemplary embodiment, the power setting for the lamp may be set to operate at about 140 watts to 200 watts variable power input depending on the selected setting by the end user.

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Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following new paragraph:

[0062] FIG. 11 is a semi-schematic perspective view of the light assembly 53, which comprises a head assembly 54 mounted on a light stand 94. In one exemplary embodiment, the light stand 94 comprises a base pole 96 and an overhang pole 98 pivotally connected together by an adjustable hinge 100. The power unit 74 is mounted to the base pole 96 and the light head 54 is mounted to the overhang pole 98. The power unit 74 and the light head 54 may be electrically communicated to one another via a cable 95 partially wired inside the two poles.

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following new paragraph:

[0065] A support base ~~[[102]]~~ 103 comprising three or more support legs ~~[[104]]~~ 105 may be incorporated with the base pole 96 for supporting the light stand 94. The base pole 96 may be removeably attached to the support base 103 in a socket arrangement comprising detents or a spring bias engagement means. Although the support legs 104 are shown with ~~support stubs 106,~~ rollers or casters 106, short support stubs may be used for ~~enhanced maneuverability~~ non-moveable applications.